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Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: David J. Madden (415) 355-8800

## **Rosanna M. Peterson Confirmed as Federal District Judge for Eastern Washington**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The United States Senate has confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Rosanna Malouf Peterson, an assistant professor at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Prof. Peterson, 58, was confirmed January 25 by a unanimous vote of the Senate. She is expected to receive her commission shortly and will fill a judgeship vacant since May 1, 2008, when District Judge Fred Van Sickle took senior status. She is the first woman to sit as a district judge on the Spokane-based federal court.

Prof. Peterson was nominated by President Obama on October 13, 2009. She had her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 18, 2009, and was reported favorably out of committee on December 10, 2009.

Prof. Peterson joined the Gonzaga University School of Law faculty in 1999 and currently teaches courses in evidence, federal jurisdiction and trial advocacy. She has served as the director of the law school’s Externship Program since 2002.

Prof. Peterson was a partner in the Spokane law firm of Rodgers & Peterson, L.L.P, from 1997 to 2003. Ms. Peterson was previously associated with several private law firms in that city, practicing general litigation, employment, criminal defense, and education law.

A Utah native, Prof. Peterson attended the University of North Dakota, where she received her B.A. in 1977, graduating *cum laude*, and an M.A. in 1983. She received her J.D. from the University of North Dakota, School of Law, graduating with distinction in 1991. After law school, she served as a staff attorney to District Judge Van Sickle from 1991 to 1993.

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Prof. Peterson has served as president of the Federal Bar Association for Eastern Washington, president of the Washington Women Lawyers State Bar Association, and president of the Spokane County Women Lawyers Bar Association. She also is a former Eastern Washington representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, a major annual gathering of the federal bench and bar in the western United States. She also serves as a director of the Eastern District of Washington's Federal Court Historical Society and has served as a director of the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington had 1,069 case filings in fiscal year 2009. The court is authorized four district judgeships, one of which is currently vacant.

District court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and receive lifetime appointments based upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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